

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 CIAE-00 INR-11 NSAE-00 RSC-01

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TAIPEI 5283

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD AND J-8

JOINT EMBASSY/MAAG/DAO MESSAGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, TW

SUBJECT: ROC CHOOSES TACOMA PSSM, HARPOON MISSILE

REF: A. BLEHA-GLEYSTEN LETTER 8/8/74 (NOTAL)

B. TAIPEI 3574

C. TAIPEI 3345

1. ROC NAVY CINC ADM. SOONG TOLD TACOMA BOAT REPRESENTATIVE MARTIN KANE AUG 21 THAT ROC HAS DECIDED TO PURCHASE TWO TACOMA PATROL SHIP MULTI MISSION (PSMM) MK-5A, ONE TO BE BUILT IN TACOMA, AND ONE ON TAIWAN. AFTER REVIEW, PROGRAM COULD EXPAND TO TOTAL OF FIVE OR MORE. HOWEVER, FINAL GO-AHEAD HAS BEEN HELD UP BY PREMIER PENDING DECISION ON MISSILE.

2. ROC STRONGLY PREFERS HARPOON MISSILE FOR MOUNTING ON THE PSSM AND, IF ROC CAN BE GIVEN REASONABLE ASSURANCE THAT HARPOON WILL BECOME AVAILABLE IN THE FUTURE (1978-80), THEY WILL BUILD THE PSMM WITHOUT MISSILES, FOR INSTALLATION AT A LATER DATE. NONETHELESS, APPARENTLY AS INSURANCE, CONFIDENTIAL

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SOONG ASKED KANE TO ARRANGE FOR ITALIANS TO VISIT TAIWAN

TO MAKE OTOMAT PRESENTATION. GABRIEL MISSILE HAS NOT BEEN CONSIDERED FOR INSTALLATION ON THE PSSM BECAUSE, ACCORDING TO SOONG, OF ARAB SENSITIVITIES.

3. ROC HAS A DEFINITE NEED FOR A MODERN HIGH SPEED MISSILE-EQUIPPED PATROL BOAT. THEY HAVE CONSIDERED CONVENTIONAL HULLED BOATS (THE SINGAPORE BOAT, THE ISRAELI SAAR, ANDIBHE TELEDYNE/SEACRAFT BOATBZQ AND HYDROFOILS (GRUMMAN AND XLEING), WITH THE INTENTION OF BUYING ONE OR ONE OTHER, BUT NOT BOTH. IN OPTING FOR GE TACOMA BOAT, ROC HAS APPARENTLY MADE DECISION, WHICH ACCORDS WITH EMBASSY AND MAAG VIEWSV THAT CONVENTIONAL HULLED BOAT WOULD BE MORE COST EFFECTIVE THAN A HYDROFOIL. IN COMPARISON WITH THE TACOMA PSMM, FOR EXAMPLE, THE HYDROFOILS WOULD CARRY LESS FIREPOWER AND EKMUNITION, HAVE LESS RANGE, LACK AN EXTENDED SLOW CRUISE CAPABUTITY, AND QRULD BE CONSIDERABLY MORE EXPENSIVE. THE HYDRMGOILS OFFER SOME HUFH SPEED ADVANTAGE, PLUS ASZORE STABLE FIRING PLATFORM IN SOME HIGH SEA STATES. IN VIEW OF ROC DECUHION AGAINST HYDROFOILS AT THIS TIME, IMPACT HERE OF REFUSAL TO GRANT EXPORT LICENSE TO GRUMMAN AND BOEING FOR SALE OF HYDROFOILS TO ROC WOULD, WE BELIEVE, BE MINIMAL, ALTHOUGH SOME IN GROC WOULD DOUBTLESS WONDER WHY. THERE IS STILL SUPPORT WITHIN GROC (PARTICULARLY CHUNG SHAN SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE) FOR HYDROFOILS, AND IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE SUBJECT MAY ARISE AGAIN AT SOME TIME IN THE FUTURE. WE CAN DEAL WITH IT AT THAT TIME BUT DEPARTMENT MAY TAKE IT THAT GROC IS NOT MOVING TOWARD HYDROFOIL ACQUISITION NOW.

4. FOR REASONS FULLY DISCUSSED WITH EA/ROC DIRECTOR SULLIVAN DURING HIS VISIT HERE, WE REITERATE MOST STRONGLY COUNTRY TEAM RECOMMENDATION (REF C) THAT APPROVAL BE GRANTED FOR GROC PURCHASE OF HARPOON SSM FOR INSTALLATION ON FIVE PSMM BOATS.
UNGER

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